

What Is The FINANCIAL SERVICES Pathway?

The financial services pathway focuses on preparing students for careers in Financial Services. The pathway includes a program called the Academy of Finance (AOF). AOF is a nationally acclaimed, industry-validated curriculum model sponsored by the National Academy Foundation. The model includes course work in areas such as banking and credit, securities and insurance, and financial planning; a paid summer internship between the student's junior and senior year of high school; and articulation agreements with two and four year colleges. For more information about NAF visit their website at www.naf-education.org.

What will the Financial Services Pathway prepare students to do?

Growth in the financial services industry has slowed slightly, but the Bureau of Labor Statistics still anticipates an additional 1.4 million jobs will be created nationally in the finance, insurance and real estate sector of the economy by 2005. In addition, much

like information technology, financial services cuts across many sectors of our economy. For example, accountants and financial analysts work in a wide range of industries including health care, high tech manufacturing, hospitality and even the non-profit sector.

What schools are involved?

Four high schools - Londonderry, Manchester School of Technology, Alvirne, Merrimack implemented their academies in 2000-01. Nashua High piloted the academy during 2001-02. Pinkerton Academy and John Stark High submitted grant applications and plan to begin their academies in 2002-03. Existing academies will continue to serve as mentors for new sites.

What are the connections with the business community?

Employers are excited about the potential of the Academies of Finance to better prepare students as entry-level workers at their



companies. The Partnership has established an Academy of Finance Advisory Board to oversee the financial services pathway development effort. Members of the AOF Advisory Board include American Express Financial Advisors, BAE Systems, Citistreet Copeland Companies, Citizens Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Merrimack Chamber of Commerce, St. Joseph Hospital, Triangle Credit Union and local school district representatives. In 2001-02, they will be exploring ways to replicate the AOF model statewide and expanding employer involvement in the internship program.

Does the AOF have articulation agreements with local colleges?

Southern NH University has an articulation agreement with NH's Academy of Finance. New Hampshire Community Technical College and other New Hampshire colleges have agreed to work on articulation agreements with the AOF.

For more information, please contact Judy King, So. Central NH STC Partnership 882-6923.

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